

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 19, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 33 and 35 have been amended, and claims 21-23, 25, 27, 30-32, 34 and 36. Accordingly, claims 19, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 33, 35 and 37-42 are pending in the present application.

Claims 19, 21, 24-28, 30 and 33-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,870,691 to Mindel. Claims 20, 22, 23, 29, 31 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being as being unpatentable over Mindel in view of JP50-42838. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Among the limitations of independent claim 19 which are neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art of record, is a diffuser which includes:

a first flow plate positioned along a sound wave emission direction of the sound source, the first flow plate having a wall tapered inwardly in the sound wave emission direction, the wall of the first flow plate being positioned outside of an area defined by the cone-shaped sound source and dimensioned so as to allow sound waves emitted from the cone-shaped sound source to pass on both sides of the wall; and

a second flow plate positioned adjacent the first flow plate along the sound wave emission direction, the second flow plate having a wall tapered outwardly in the sound wave emission direction, and the first flow plate being located within an area defined by the wall of the second flow plate.

(emphasis added)

Among the limitations of independent claim 28 which are neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art of record, is a diffuser which includes:

a first flow plate positioned along a sound wave emission direction of the sound source, the first flow plate having a first opening proximal to the sound source and a second opening distal from the sound source, the first opening being larger than the second opening, the first opening of the first flow plate being positioned

outside of an area defined by the cone-shaped sound source, and the first flow plate being dimensioned so as to allow sound waves emitted from the cone-shaped sound source to pass on both sides of the first flow plate; and

a second flow plate positioned adjacent the first flow plate along the sound wave emission direction of the sound source, the second flow plate having a first opening proximal to the sound source and a second opening distal from the sound source, the first opening being larger than the second opening, the first opening of the second flow plate being positioned outside of an area defined by the cone-shaped sound source, and the second flow plate being dimensioned so as to allow sound waves emitted from the cone-shaped sound source to pass on both sides of the second flow plate.

(emphasis added)

Mindel does not teach or suggest a flow plate as defined in independent claims 19 and 28. With respect to claim 19, Mindel does not teach or suggest a diffuser having first flow plate with a wall that tapers inwardly in the sound wave emission direction and a second flow plate with a wall that tapers outwardly in the sound wave emission direction. While Applicant disagrees with the Examiner that the baffles 15 of Mindel are actually a flow plate, the front walls 4 of the Mindel speaker cabinet are not tapered outwardly as required by independent claim 19.

With respect to claim 28, Mindel does not teach or suggest a diffuser having first flow plate dimensioned so as to allow sound waves emitted from the cone-shaped sound source to pass on both sides of the first flow plate, and a second flow plate positioned adjacent the first flow plate and dimensioned so as to allow sound waves emitted from the cone-shaped sound source to pass on both sides of the second flow plate. The front walls 4 of the Mindel speaker cabinet do not allow sound waves emitted from the sound source to pass on both sides thereof as required by independent claim 28.

JP50-42838 does not remedy any of the deficiencies of Mindel. JP50-42838 does not teach or suggest a diffuser having first flow plate with a wall that tapers inwardly in the sound wave emission direction and a second flow plate with a wall that tapers outwardly in the sound wave emission direction as required by independent claim 19. JP50-42838 also does not teach or suggest

a diffuser having first flow plate dimensioned so as to allow sound waves emitted from the cone-shaped sound source to pass on both sides of the first flow plate, and a second flow plate positioned adjacent the first flow plate and dimensioned so as to allow sound waves emitted from the cone-shaped sound source to pass on both sides of the second flow plate as required by independent claim 28. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 19 and 28 patentably distinguish over the art of record.

Claims 20, 24, 26 and 37-39 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 19 and include all of the limitations found therein. Claims 29, 33, 35 and 40-42 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 28 and include all of the limitations found therein. Each of these dependent claims includes additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of the claims from which they depend, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record. Accordingly, claims 20, 24, 26, 29, 33, 35 and 37-42 are likewise patentable.

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration of the amendments to claims 19, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 33 and 35, and allowance of the present application with claims 19, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 33, 35 and 37-42 is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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